

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-24. (canceled).

25. (previously amended): A method for quantitating alphavirus replicon particles comprising:

- a) providing a population of packaging cells;
- b) contacting said packaging cells with said alphavirus replicon particles under conditions suitable and for a time sufficient for said cells to be infected with said alphavirus replicon particles;
- c) incubating said infected packaging cells under conditions suitable and for a time sufficient for production of said alphavirus replicon particles;
- d) enumerating the number of resulting plaques, thereby quantitating said alphavirus replicon particles.

26. (currently amended) The method according to claim 25, wherein said packaging cells express all structural proteins necessary for ~~packaging~~ production of said alphavirus replicon particles.

27. (original): The method according to claim 25, wherein said packaging cells comprise at least one expression cassette expressing an alphavirus capsid protein and at least one alphavirus glycoprotein.

28. (original): The method according to claim 25, wherein said packaging cells express an alphavirus capsid protein and at least one alphavirus glycoprotein from distinct expression cassettes.

29. (previously presented): The method of claim 27, wherein said at least one expression cassette expresses E1 and E2 glycoproteins.

30. (previously presented): The method of claim 25, further comprising the step of overlaying said infected cells with a layer of agarose.

31. (canceled).